

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 24-26 have been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 1-16 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16 and 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,309,563 issued to Farrand et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,065,053 issued to Nouri et al.

As is clearly set forth at Section 706.02(j) of the M.P.E.P., the following three basic criteria must be met in order for the Examiner to establish a prima facie case of obviousness:

1. There must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings;
2. There must be a reasonable expectation that combining the references would successfully result in the claimed invention; and
3. **The prior art references when combined must teach or suggest all limitations of the claims under examination.**

Claim 1 recites the following:

receiving control operations from a source external to a client device;
determining a current operating state of the client device;
determining whether execution of the received control operations are permitted while the client device is in the determined operating state; and
executing the received control operations if the execution has been determined to be permitted.

Farrand discloses a method for transferring messages from a network operating system to a system manager. Farrand does not disclose determining a current operating state of the client device and determining whether execution of the received control operations are permitted while the client device is in the determined operating state.

Nouri discloses a system for resetting a server. The Office Action states that Nouri at col. 6, lines 45-65 discloses that after determining the cause of the system problem, the administrator can use microcontroller network "fly by wire" capability to reset the system, as well as to power the system off or on, and that "fly by wire" denotes that no switch, indicator, or other control is directly connected to the function it monitors or controls, but instead, all the control and monitoring connections are made by the microcontroller network. However, this cited text does not disclose determining a current operating state of the client device and determining whether execution of the received control operations are permitted while the client device is in the determined operating state. Therefore, Nouri does not cure the deficiencies of Farrand. Furthermore, at col. 6, lines 10-12, Nouri discloses that the microcontroller network continues to operate and provides a system administrator with critical system information, regardless of the operational status of the server. This teaches away from the invention as claimed.

Neither Farrand nor Nouri discloses determining a current operating state of the client device and determining whether execution of the received control operations are permitted while the client device is in the determined operating state. These limitations are recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Farrand and Nouri.

Claims 2-7 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their independent base claim in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2-7 are patentable over Farrand and Nouri for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 8 recites the following:

a first electronic component;
a bus;
a sensor coupled to said bus and said first electronic component to sense events in said first electronic component; and
a second electronic component coupled to said bus to conditionally cause said first electronic component to perform a plurality of functions through said sensor, via said bus, responsive to control operations from a source external to the apparatus.

As discussed above, Farrand discloses a method for transferring messages from a network operating system to a system manager, and Nouri discloses a system for resetting a server. Neither Farrand nor Nouri discloses a sensor coupled to the bus and the first electronic component to sense events in the first electronic component. The Office Action states that Nouri at col. 22, lines 32-65 discloses this limitation. However, the only mention of "sensor" in the cited text of Nouri is at line 35, where the text states that an exemplary message from the microcontroller network table may include the text "temperature sensor exceeds threshold." The cited text in Nouri does not disclose a sensor coupled to a bus and a first electronic component to sense events in the first electronic component.

Furthermore, neither Farrand nor Nouri discloses ¹ a second electronic component coupled to the bus to conditionally cause the first electronic component to perform a plurality of functions through the sensor, via the bus, responsive to control operations from a source external to the apparatus. The Office Action states that Nouri at col. 12, lines 50-62 discloses this limitation. However, the cited text of Nouri merely discloses that the microcontroller network 102 can perform various system administration tasks, such as monitoring the signals that come from server control switches, temperature sensors, and client computers. The cited text in Nouri does not disclose a second electronic component causing a first electronic component to perform a plurality of functions through the sensor and via the bus, in response to control operations from a source external to the apparatus.

Neither Farrand nor Nouri discloses a sensor coupled to the bus and the first electronic component to sense events in the first electronic component and a second electronic component coupled to the bus to conditionally cause the first electronic component to perform a plurality of functions through the sensor, via the bus, responsive to control operations from a source external to the apparatus. These limitations are recited in claim 8. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 8 is patentable over Farrand and Nouri.

Claims 9-16 are dependent claims and distinguish for at least the same reasons as their independent base claim in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 9-16 are patentable over Farrand and Nouri for at least the reasons set forth above.

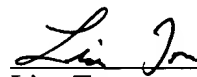
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date: 8/13/03



Lisa Tom
Reg. No. 52,291

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 684-6200